

AMERICAN LINKS EQUAL WORLD'S BEST

Architects Reach Top of Construction Goal.

By JOHN G. ANDERSON.
There is little chance for prophecy concerning golfing matters. The advances

We have had in the last four or five years a wonderful forward stride at every angle of the golfing world. In golf ball making, in golf club construction, in indoor golf apparatus, indoor and outdoor putting and approaching schemes, golfing garb, in the better understanding of the rules and the accepted styles of play, in a higher class of magazine golf articles and more interest by the lay man, espe-

But to my mind the greatest of all is the advance which has been made by the golf architects of the land who have given to us some of the finest courses in the world, and have acquainted us with the fact that we will soon have many others which will bring the average of standard links in this country up to that of Great Britain. Money and labor and scientific construction will combat with success the forces of the sun, which will

so barren oftentimes in summer, a condition rarely seen abroad, and which is the one vital reason for the need of intelligent, scientific as well as imaginative creation on the golf links in the United States.

Ross Constructing Genius.

Not long ago I heard an argument between two golfers as to the respective merits of professionals and amateurs as golf architects. The discussion was foolish, for the answer, so far as golf construction goes, lies in the amount of study which has been put on the subject by the

various individuals. Donald Ross is considered the busiest man in golfdom in the matter of laying out courses. But Donald would never have been busy if he had not studied as he went along and had not taken the greatest pains to profit whenever possible by his past mistakes and experiences.

Ross studied under competent men in order that he might be able to draw all the necessary plans and present his own blue prints to committees without estimates. If he were dependent upon his ability in laying out courses and his knowledge of 1905, it is unlikely that he would be busy three hundred days in a year.

Wille Park is one of the finest of all links architects but he has been in the business for thirty and more years; it is, with him, a study of a lifetime. These are but two of many professional men who have made a success at laying out Virginia.

The familiarity which the ordinary professional has with the makeup of the various links in this country and Great Britain is sufficient stock in trade to enable him to plan the traps, the tees, and the greens, and give to the world a links of moderate greatness. But few if any of the rank and the just mentioned would ever give to the

world a links of championship calibre. To do that requires study and a broad knowledge of grass and seed, draught, proper undulation, and a complete knowledge of distances and trapping which only hard study can unfold.

Amateur Achieves Greatness.

Without detracting from the many

truly fine courses which the professionals have built it is a condition in the advance of links architecture that the amateur has been the creator of our most wonderful and most difficult links in the land. The amateur has been the one who has defied convention and educated the American people to a higher form of course demands.

To detract from the professionals who have been in the forefront of the second national game and say that they have been prosaic would be unjust unless we qualified it with the statement that never have the architects of the paid profession been given the same *blanche* orders as regards money and men. Instead of being urged to make

the best regardless of test. It may have been urged to give the most for the least money and often the same animal was small indeed. Creative genius in the professional was not allowed to spring forth.

money untold, there was a sheer, far imagination, for the coping of the best holes in the world, for consistency and many of the best players and it was that it is small wonder that we are in the midst of a whole chain of new-born courses, each of which if the demands given to the architect are met out, is to be "the best in the world."

McDonald Has Succeeded:
Charles McDonald's trip to Japan and his creation of the Nippon Club was to me the first important step toward toward the highest place of links. True, we had Meiji, but not enough had been said in praise of very fine course, and the public...

Most golf links are planned, built and opened in a matter of days and built in half a season. But it will be noticed that those links which

are today receiving the greatest attention are those which are being handled slowly and with caution even by the way. Pine Valley, a town of amateur skill, H. S. Colt and Crump-Lido; again Christie M. Ocean City; Willie Rollins, Marylandville; A. W. Tillman are links where perfection is

quired the first year for casing making. And, given half a word links by 1947, we shall do so by 1920.

feature; but the testing holes which have been formed have forced the sale of new golf clubs. The stinging pitchers, backspinners and the like have been the output made necessary by trapping round the greens. But I feel that more real golf is required of the man who plays his match with a plain faced club than in deep scored weapons, but it is the

If the committee members at M... had not spent thousands of dollars on their greens previous to the state championship this year the title would have been farcical. Wally Travis is right in asking for a... p... ship date when the courses are not

baked.